

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /090 W
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R 091846Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9137

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3705

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR SS AG MO MR

SUBJECT: BOUMEDIENE AT 1974 RABAT ARAB SUMMIT

REF: RABAT 2471

1. CORRESPONDENT OF OPPOSITION DAILY L'OPINION (ISTIQLALI), REPORTING FROM PORT LOUSI, WHERE HE ACCOMPANIED GOM DELEGATION TO COVER OAU CONFERENCE, PUBLISHED FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF ALLEGED CONVERSATION WITH ALGERIAN DIPLOMAT. LATTER, IDENTIFIED AS HAJJALI, MFA DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, SAID TO HAVE REFERRED TO BOUMEDIENE'S SAHARA REMARKS AT 1972(SIC) SUMMIT. HAJJALI SAID HE KNEW THAT GOM TRAVELLING EMISSARIES HAD PLAYED TAPE OF BOUMEDIENE SPEECH AT EACH STOP. ALGERIAN DELEGATIONS, HE SAID, FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY ON HEELS OF GOM DELEGATIONS AND PLAYED THEIR OWN TAPES WHICH HAD BOUMEDIENE ADDING FOLLOWING SENTENCE: "CONCERNING THE WESTERN SAHARA QUESTION, ALGERIA REMAINS ATTACHED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE SAHARAN PEOPLE."

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2. CORRESPONDENT'S COMMENT IN HIS ARTICLE WAS THAT
BOLDEST LIE WAS ALWAYS THE HARDEST TO KNOCK DOWN.

3. COMMENT: WHETHER JOURNALIST'S SUGGESTION OF AUDIO
TAMPERING IS TRUE IS IMPOSSIBLE TO VERIFY,
BUT AS WE NOTED IN REFTEL, ABSENCE OF COMMENTARY ON SELF-
DETERMINATION WAS SIGNIFICANT FEATURE OF BOUMEDIENE'S
REMARKS. WE ALSO RECALL THAT SOME ALGERIAN TRAVELLING
MISSIONS WERE UNDERWAY CONCURRENTLY WITH RECENT MOROCCAN
CAMPAIGN SO THERE IS AT LEAST SOME SUPPORT FOR THIS
LATEST CHAPTER IN WHO STRUCK JOHN.
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

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